Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA FLASH

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FOR AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:CANAL TREATY FACTSHEETS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FACTSHEET ABOUTTHE TREATY WHICH WE HAVE DRAFTED AND DISCUSSED WITH INTERESTED OFFICES IN THE DEPARTMENT, WE ARE SENDING A LONGERVERSION (FACTSHEET NUMBER 2) BY SEPTEL. WE PLAN TO HAVE BOTH FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE

FOR RELEASE TOMORROW MORNING. URGENTLY REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS, CHANGES AND CLEARANCES.

2. FACT SHEET NUMBER 1.

BEGIN QUOTE: FACTSHEET - NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY - PURPOSE. THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL REPLACE THE U.S.-PANAMA TREATY OF 1903, WHICH HAS GOVERNED CANAL OPERATIONS SINCE THE WATERWAY'S CONSTRUCTION, AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS. THE EXISTING SYSTEM. UNDER THE 1903TREATY, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. HAS TOTAL CONTROL OF CANAL OPERATIONS. THE U.S. ALSO ADMINISTERS THE CANAL ZONE -- AN AREA OF PANAMANIAN TERRITORY FIVE MILES WIDE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CANAL. IN THIS AREA WE HAVE THE RIGHTS IN PERPETUITY TO ACT "AS-IF-SOVEREIGN." THIS ARRANGEMENT, NOT INCONSISTEN WITH INTERNAIONAL STANDARDS AT THE TIME THE 1903 TREATY WAS CONCLUDED, IS CLEARLY OUT OF TUNE WITH THE TIMES TODAY. IT

IS DEEPLY RESENTED IN PANAMA AND IS A LIABILITY IN OUR RE-LATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND WITH MANY OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

BASIC U.S. OBJECTIVES. IN NEGOTIATING A NEW TREATY UNDER FOUR PRESIDENTS, THE PREPONDERANT U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST HAS BEEN TO ASSURE THAT THE CANAL REMAINS EFFICIENTLY OPERATED, SECURE, NEUTRAL, AND OPEN TO ALL NATIONS ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS. FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS OBJECTIVE IS THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF PANAMA.

THE NEW AGREEMENT. THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

- -- CANAL DEFENSE. THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CANAL'S DEFENSE DURING THE TREATY'S TERM. PANAMA WILL PARTICIPATE.
- -- CANAL OPERATION. THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CANAL OPERATIONS DURING THETERM OF THE TREATY. IT WILL POSSESS ALL NECESSARY RIGHTS AND WILL ACT THROUGH A UNITEDSTATES GOVERNMENT AGENCY. A POLICY LEVEL BOARD OF FIVE AMERICANS AND FOUR PANAMANIANS WILL SERVE AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. UNTIL 1990, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CANAL ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE AN AMERICAN AND THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR A PANAMANIAN. THEREAFTER, HE ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE PANAMANIAN ANDTHE DEPUTY, AMERICAN. ALL CANAL

OFFICIALS WILL

BE APPOINTED BY THE UNITED STATES, BUT THERE WILL BE INCREASING PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS.

-- CANAL OPERATING AND DEFENSE AREAS. WHILE THE CANAL

ZONE AS SUCH WILL CEASE O EXIST, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESSTO, AND THE RIGHTS TO USE, ALL LAND AND WATER AREAS AND INSTALLATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL DURING THE TREATY PERIOD.

-- NEUTRALITY. PANAMA AND THE UNITEDSTATES WILL MAINTAIN A REGIME PROVIDING FOR THE PERMANENTNEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL INCLUDING NON-DISCRIMINAORY ACCESS AND TOLLS FOR MERCHANT AND NAVAL VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS. UNITED STATES

AND PANAMANIAN WARSHIPS WILL BE ENTITLED TO EXPEDITIOUS PASSAGE OF THE CANAL AT ALL TIMES. OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION TO MAINTAIN THE CANAL'S NEUTRALITY IS NOT LIMITED BY THE TREATY.

-- ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. DURING THE TREATY'S LIFE PANAMA WILL RECEIVEAN ANNUAL PAYMENT TO PANAMA FROM TOLL

REVENUES OF 30 CENTS (TO BE ADJUSTED PERIODICALLY FOR INFLATION) PER PANAMA CANAL TON TRANSITING THE CANAL. PANAMA WILL ALSO RECEIVE A FIXED SUM OF \$10 MILLION PER ANNUM, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION IF CANAL REVENUES

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PERMIT. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES WILL COOPERATE WIH PANAMA, OUTSIDE THE TREATY, TO PROMOTE PANAMA'S DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY. TOTHIS END, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO INITIATE WITH PANAMA LOANS AND GUARANTEES OF UP TO \$345 MILLION OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER EXISTING SATUTORY PROGRAMS.

- -- SEA-LEVEL CANAL. PANAMA AND THE UNITEDSTATES COMMIT THEMSELVES JOINTLY TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A SEA-LEVEL CANAL AND, IF THEY AGREE THAT SUCH A CANAL IS NECESSARY, TO NEGOTIATE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TERMS FOR ITS CONSTRUCION.
- -- JURISDICTION. PANAMA WILL ASSUME GENERAL TERRITORIAL JURISDICION OVER THE PRESENT CANAL ZONE ATTHE TREATY'S START. THERE WILL BE A THREE-YEAR PERIOD FOR PHASING DOWN U.S. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OVER U.S. CIIZENS.
- -- DURATION. THE BASIC TREATY WILL TERMINATE ON DECEMBER 31, 1999. OUR MILITARY PRESENCE WILL CEASE AT THE TREATY'S END.
- -- U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES. PROVISION IS MADE TO PROTECT THERIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS EMPLOYED BY THE CANAL ENTERPRISE. CHRISTOPHER

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

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